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REPORT OF THE COMMANDANT
OF THE
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

1962



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
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15 August 1962

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Secretary of the Navy

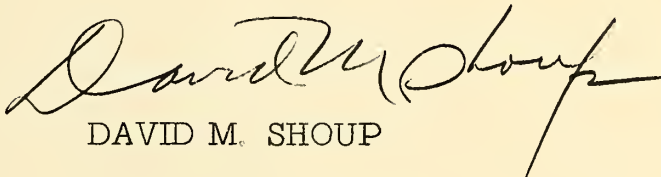
Subj: Submission of Written Material for the Annual Report of the
Secretary of the Navy

Ref: (a) SECNAV INSTN 5000.5A
(b) SECNAV INSTN 5000.5A Sup-1

Encl: (1) Chapter IV, Marine Corps Operations
(2) Three (3) photographs

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b) the enclosed submission for the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy to the Secretary of Defense is forwarded herewith.

2. Enclosure (2) is forwarded for inclusion in the final report.


DAVID M. SHOUP

7 Sep 1962

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IV MARINE CORPS OPERATIONS

MARINE CORPS OPERATIONS

During fiscal year 1962 the Marine Corps achieved its highest degree of combat readiness since the Korean War. The gradual decline in personnel strength was reversed. The expeditionary capability of Marine aviation was greatly improved as several developmental projects came to fruition. Deployment of Fleet Marine Force ground and aviation units to Southeast Asia created additional opportunity for serving the interests of the Free World in a decisive manner. Valuable joint and combined training was accomplished. The Navy's commissioning of 2 new amphibious assault ships (LPHs) represented a long-awaited improvement in strategic mobility.

Within the supporting structure the Marine Corps Schools system underwent some changes in keeping pace with modern military requirements.

Headquarters Marine Corps adapted several improved management techniques in planning, programming and budgeting and finally, certain changes, limited in scope but none the less important, were made in the structure of Headquarters Marine Corps and the Fleet Marine Forces.

EMPLOYMENT OF FORCES

The Fleet Marine Forces, nearly 115,000 strong, consist of three combat divisions, three aircraft wings, and reinforcing units. These combatant forces are assigned to the

naval component commanders of the unified Atlantic and Pacific Commands. The employment of Marine forces, therefore, is directed by the appropriate fleet commander in response to plans originated by the unified commander.

Marine divisions and aircraft wings together with their reinforcement and service-support components are employed as teams. A division-wing team is a powerful striking force which includes approximately 40,000 Marines, 300 combat aircraft, and a wide variety of ground and aerial weapons and equipment. One such team is assigned to the Atlantic Fleet and two are assigned to the Pacific Fleet.

Though a division-wing team is a single entity, it also serves as a reservoir from which smaller air-ground units are organized for special purposes. Routine deployment of such task organizations during FY 1962 included the following:

- Landing Force Mediterranean; a battalion landing team augmented with helicopters and assigned to the Sixth Fleet.

- Special Contingency Landing Force; a battalion landing team maintained afloat or ashore in the Caribbean

as part of the Second Fleet.

- Special Landing Force; a battalion landing team maintained aboard ships of the Seventh Fleet in or near the South China Sea.

- One jet aircraft squadron assigned to carrier air groups of Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

- Two jet aircraft squadrons located at Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Elsewhere in the Operating Forces approximately 2600 Marines serve with Marine Detachments aboard 45 ships of the Navy. Some 400 Marines are assigned to Navy Staffs. In addition more than 800 Marines provide security for State Department installations at 93 foreign service posts in more than 70 foreign countries.

MARINE CORPS OBJECTIVES

Principal objectives for FY 62 were sixfold:

- To maintain and improve combat readiness in all its manifestations - personnel, materiel, and training.

- To reach the newly authorized strength of 190,000 rapidly and in orderly fashion, making maximum effective use of existing training resources.

- To increase the manning level of aviation units above

90% with particular emphasis on providing sufficient numbers of personnel requiring highly technical training.

- To improve Planning and Programming and the related functions of Landing Force Research and Development.

- To improve logistic support of and within the Fleet Marine Force through more effective use of mechanization but without placing sole reliance on machines.

- To reorganize the Marine Corps Reserve to be more capable of providing, within a month, a fourth division-wing team.

MARINE CORPS ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS, AND TRAINING

Organization:

The organization of Headquarters Marine Corps was subjected to a comprehensive study during FY 1962 by a high-level board of Marine officers. The board was concerned with effecting personnel economies and achieving greater efficiency. Partly as a result of the board's study, some adjustments within presently authorized ceilings have now been made in the Headquarters structure, notably:

- The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Air) was created.



- The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans and Programs) was expanded to improve Marine Corps planning and programming efforts and to facilitate support for the DC/S (P&P) in joint matters.

- The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff (Research and Development) was expanded to improve the management of the R&D program.

The combat structure has also been under scrutiny in an extensive Troop Test Program which has been underway since 1960. Phase I, the Combat Unit Evaluation Phase, was completed in the field last year. Results of the Phase I test have been analyzed at the Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center (MCLFDC), Quantico, Virginia, and at Headquarters, Marine Corps.

In large measure the tests confirmed the adequacy of the existing structure of Fleet Marine Force units although some evolutionary changes have been introduced.

The well-known 13 man rifle squad will soon take on a 14th member to be armed with the M79 grenade launcher. Division artillery was reduced from eight to six guns per battery. In the near future each direct support battalion will be composed of three 105 mm Howitzer Batteries and one 4.2"



Howtar Battery. The Howtar is a 4.2" mortar mounted on a pack howitzer carriage, a combination which provides, on an interim basis, a helicopter-transportable artillery weapon.

A 3d Light Anti-Aircraft Missile (LAAM) Battalion and the cadre for a 4th such Battalion were activated during the year.

In order to integrate more completely the antiair warfare capability of Marine Expeditionary Forces, LAAM Battalions were assigned to the aviation component of the Fleet Marine Force; formerly they were organic to Force Troops, FMF Pac.

A year-long study of the Marine Corps Reserve was completed and plans were approved for reorganizing the Reserve establishment effective 1 July 1962. Within the 45,500-man organized Reserve, nearly half of the 218 ground units and all 86 aviation units were affected. This plan enables the Marine Corps to have in being within its organized Reserve the principal elements of the 4th Marine Division, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, and selected Force Troop units.

In conjunction with the Defense Traffic Management Agency a system was instituted for predetermining all

transportation requirements for mobilization of Reserve units.

A series of mobilization exercises has been held to test procedures for bringing Reserves to active duty under emergency conditions. Existing procedures have been refined or modified in light of experience gained with a marked improvement in speed and efficiency.

The Navy concurred with a plan to predesignate 24 Navy Reserve Surgical Teams for Fleet Marine Force duty. In addition two collecting and clearing companies have been approved for drill-pay status within the organized Reserve. The latter two units will be a nucleus for the medical battalion of the 4th Marine Division.

Operations:

Some deployments were made in response to crises which suddenly erupted. In April 1962, at the request of the government of South Vietnam, a Marine Task Unit of Seventh Fleet deployed to Soc Trang. A medium helicopter squadron formed the nucleus of the task unit; its support is drawn mainly from a detachment furnished by a Marine Air Base Squadron. Tactical Airfield Fuel Dispensing facilities have been established and the helicopters have flown hundreds of missions in support of South Vietnamese troops. Some missions

have been flown unilaterally while others were in concert with U. S. Army helicopter units.

When military action heightened in Laos during June 1962 United States forces were requested by the Royal Government of Thailand. Forces were provided by the U. S. Army, U. S. Air Force, and the U. S. Navy and Marine Corps. A balanced air-ground team, consisting of a battalion landing team, a helicopter squadron, a fixed-wing jet attack squadron and a support group which included elements of a Navy Mobile Construction Battalion, was furnished from the Fleet Marine Force.

These forces were deployed to South Vietnam and Thailand quickly and without incident. Forward deployment of major combat forces with the Seventh Fleet makes possible the rapid commitment of air-ground task organizations in Southeast Asia.

Training:

A special language training program was inaugurated in the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia for selected officers already possessing some language capability. The program was designed to develop in each student a basic conversational proficiency in French or Spanish. The goal

is to assure that Marine officers have a vocabulary sufficient to accomplish routine tasks, movements, and business while performing duty in a French or Spanish speaking area.

After 1 July 1962 all officers attending Marine Corps Schools residence courses will receive regular formal language instruction. Field commands have been directed to emphasize foreign language study within off-duty education programs.

Increased emphasis has been placed on individual and unit training in counter guerrilla warfare and counterinsurgency operations. The Marine Corps Schools system provides instruction in the theory and practice of both these forms of warfare. A newly devised course of instruction has been introduced to train senior officers in planning and conducting counterinsurgency operations.

Fleet Marine Force units have increased the tempo of instruction and field training in counterinsurgency operations but without sacrificing training in the amphibious specialty. Landing exercises ranging from the level of battalion landing teams to division-wing Marine Expeditionary Forces were conducted throughout the year in such areas as Hawaii, Okinawa, Thailand, Korea, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and the littorals

of the Mediterranean.

Joint Exercise QUICK KICK

During April and May 1962 the four services conducted a joint amphibious and airborne exercise on the east coast of the United States. All available combat resources of Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic were employed.

Marines participating in QUICK KICK first conducted an Expeditionary Force amphibious exercise (LANTPHIBEX 1-62) at Vieques, Puerto Rico. Upon completion of the PHIBEX, the 2d Marine Division, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, and other supporting Fleet Marine Force units returned to the continental United States for their part of the joint exercise.

SEATO Exercise TULUNGAN

Exercise TULUNGAN (Filipino expression meaning "mutual assistance") was conducted in March 1962. The U. S. Navy-Marine team in the Western Pacific furnished most of the forces for the exercise. They were supported by U. S. Air Force aircraft. In addition Filipino Navy and Marine forces and some Australian forces participated.

The Western-Pacific division-wing team formed a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) for the landing in the Philippines. Troops stormed ashore by means of a combined

helicopter-borne and surface assault. Subsequent airlanded operations were supported by the 315th Air Division, USAF. The exercise provided valuable combined experience in major amphibious operations in an expeditionary and counter-insurgency environment in Southeast Asia.

Several training exercises of a smaller scale took place. In September 1961 a Marine Expeditionary Brigade took part in CHECKMATE II, a NATO Joint/Combined exercise in the eastern Mediterranean. Units of Greece and Turkey also participated.

In October 1961 U. S. Marines and Royal Marine Commandos exercised their assault landing skills at Bomba, Libya in WHITE BAIT II. Later, at Sattahip in Thailand, Thai Marines and personnel from the 3d Marine Division's Reconnaissance Battalion conducted a combined Jungle Warfare Exercise.

For the first time, Marine Reservists deployed outside the continental United States for their two-week active duty training. Marine Corps GV-1 and MATS aircraft transported an infantry battalion (-) and two engineer companies to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico. Operating with regular Fleet Marine Force units, the Reservists executed

surface and helicopter landings, executed a series of night problems, and conducted live firing and other tactical exercises. Base development projects were also accomplished.

TACTICAL CONCEPTS

While there were no striking changes in tactical concepts during the year, there was increasing appreciation of one of cold war's realities. That is, commanders must often deploy forces from their own resources to meet sudden crises, and they must do so without expecting replacement in kind.

The Fleet Marine Force division-wing teams furnish expeditionary units of varying size organized to meet combat mission requirements. Most frequently helicopter and infantry units are combined, thus furnishing ground combat forces with helicopter support for vertical assault operations. Fixed-wing jet fighter or attack squadrons are included to provide close support.

The blending of air and ground combat power is not new. It pervades all aspects of Marine combat training within the framework of an amphibious environment. This amphibious and air-ground orientation is fundamental and continuous.

During the year Unified Commanders evidenced greater appreciation for the varied combat resources of Marine division-wing teams. Most notable, of course, were the continuous employment of FMF units as ship-based landing forces in critical areas, the seaborne deployment of one such unit during the Dominican crisis in November 1961, and the commitment of Marines in South Vietnam and Thailand during 1962.

MARINE AVIATION

The old reliable propeller fighter-bombers have now disappeared from Marine aviation inventories. Modern jet aircraft like Chance Vought's F8U Crusader and Douglas's A4D Skyhawk are in wide use today with even newer and more versatile aircraft coming along in 1962 such as McDonnell's F4H Phantom II.

Vertical assault operations are made possible by the 13 helicopter squadrons organic to the Marine Corps. Throughout 1961 and 1962 these squadrons conducted routine flight training, helicopter landing exercises from amphibious assault ships, and tactical and logistical support in a ground combat environment. In addition to these routine operations, helicopter squadrons conducted such diverse missions as:

- Support of Project Mercury, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's astronaut program.

- Support of the Pacific nuclear test series.

- Support of the Marine Expeditionary Unit which deployed to Thailand in June 1962, and

- Support of South Vietnamese forces engaged in active counterinsurgency operations in the Delta region near Saigon.

Since its infancy Marine aviation has sought to maintain an expeditionary quality equal to that of the ground forces. Fiscal Year 1962 saw the realization of several major goals which have materially improved this capability.

The problem of severe manning levels has imposed upon the readiness and endurance of aviation squadrons for several years. The personnel shortages have now largely been overcome. A carefully integrated program of training, particularly in fields requiring technical skills, has brought unit strengths to an acceptable level, one which will support deployment and sustained operations afield.

Another area of importance to the Marine Corps has been receipt and active use of aerial refueling aircraft.

Three squadrons of GV-1 refuelers have been activated. In January 1962 a squadron of F8U jet fighter aircraft, flying in three increments, spanned the Pacific. The aircraft deployed from the Continental United States to Japan by means of aerial refueling with only three stops en route. In March 1962 a squadron of A4D jet attack planes followed suit. Squadrons making future trans-Pacific deployments will use these same techniques.

Compared to surface deployment, the savings of time and money have been significant. Of greater importance, however, is the improved organic capability to place landbased tactical aircraft in an objective area early in an operation.

Airfields in the objective area are a matter of great importance to a landing force. Heavy jet aircraft with high landing speeds normally require several thousand feet of concrete runway plus sophisticated repair, maintenance, and refueling facilities. In order to overcome dependence on such fields, the Marine Corps has been developing a Small Airfield for Tactical Support (SATS). All major components of the system, except an expeditionary catapult, had been developed during or prior to 1961. Work

on the catapult progressed satisfactorily and in February 1962 the first launch of a combat aircraft took place. Although the catapult does not yet meet combat-operational standards, it represents an important accomplishment in Marine Corps development activities. In the interim, jet aircraft can make full use of SATS by employing afterburner or jet assisted takeoff (JATO).

LANDING FORCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The first Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC), a major component of the Marine Tactical Data System (MTDS), was delivered in September 1961. A second TAOC was delivered in June 1962. Both are undergoing testing in California. The MTDS was designed to accept, store, process, and display data from radars and manual inputs. When operational, this helicopter-transportable system will enable the air commander to evaluate the entire air situation and make timely decisions on the use of offensive and defensive aircraft and missile elements under his control.

At the Marine Corps Landing Force Development Center, Quantico, Virginia, tests have established the feasibility of the PRC-38, a single-sideband, man-pack,

tactical radio (transceiver). Service test models are being delivered.

Landing vehicle development continued to maintain high priority among Marine Corps R & D efforts. A development contract was negotiated for the LVTPX-11 which will be a follow-on for the present assault amphibian tractor, the LVTP-5.

Prototype construction has commenced on two new high-speed logistic support vehicles: the LVW which incorporates a planing-hull design and the LVH which utilizes hydrofoils. The SWAMP vehicle has also progressed to the prototype stage and models of these 1/2 ton and 5 ton support vehicles are now undergoing test. The SWAMP gives promise of maximum mobility in marginal terrain.

Development is underway on self-contained helicopter-transportable huts for division-level photographic and reproduction work.

The Marine Corps is also conducting an active research project to improve its expeditionary fuel storage-and-handling equipment. The project seeks to achieve higher capacity and greater pumping range for the Amphibious Assault Fuel System (AAFS). This and related systems

are employed in an amphibious environment for refueling vehicles and aircraft. Any improvements in the AAFS have great potential significance for the support of the SATS.

Finally, better management of the total Marine Corps R&D effort has been introduced. An improved R&D Program Document now covers all operational requirements with matching materiel developments. This document constitutes a major advance in R&D Planning and Programming.

PERSONNEL PLANS, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS

Strength:

From a personnel standpoint FY 1962 was a most significant year. The Corps had only recently been authorized to increase its manpower resources from 175,000 to 178,000 when the Administration authorized a second increase -- to 190,000. The expansion was accomplished before the end of December 1961 mainly through voluntary enlistments. Recruitment remained highly selective.

The most important effect of the strength increase was availability of more Marines in the Operating Forces, particularly within the Fleet Marine Forces. Aviation units, previously restricted to manning levels ranging from 70% to 80% of T/O, were increased to levels above 90% during the

year. Combat efficiency has been materially improved by virtue of these steps.

Officer Programs:

Marine Corps officer strength was increased from 16, 200 to 16, 700 of which 10, 500 billets are authorized for regular officers.

In fiscal year 1962 the Marine Corps had 9, 000 regular officers and 1, 300 warrant officers on active duty. The remaining 6, 400 officers on active duty were reserve officers of whom approximately half were reserve lieutenants with obligated service.

A new Career Reserve Program has been devised to provide career opportunities for reserve officers serving on either a Standard Written Agreement or Extended Active Duty. Qualified officers may execute a series of contracts and remain on active duty for specified periods leading to eventual retirement upon completion of the necessary 20 or more years on active duty. Results of this program have thus far been excellent.

A Warrant Officer Helicopter-Pilot Program was initiated to make more effective use of trained manpower. Sixty Marines were selected for this program from among

Naval Aviation Pilots (enlisted) and former Naval Aviators.

Under provisions of Public Law 86-155 (hump legislation), fiscal year 1962 was the third year in which zones of consideration were used in conjunction with a promotion zone for selection of majors to lieutenant colonel and in which colonels and lieutenant colonels twice failed of selection were involuntarily retired short of 30 and 26-years of commissioned service. Hump legislation will expire in FY 65 unless sooner extended by Congress.

Public Law 86-123 remitted the restricted status of former Supply Duty Only (SDO) officers. All SDOs were reassigned to the status of unrestricted officers during the year.

The Women Marine Officer Program also underwent change in fiscal year 1962. No sophomores and only a few juniors were accepted, and a single ten-week candidate's training program replaced two separate six-week periods. In addition Women Marine Officers are now required to serve for three years after commissioning in place of the two years formerly required. The new program is expected to produce higher selectivity and provide less attrition of candidates.

Enlisted Programs:

Continued emphasis was placed on long-term enlistments. Nearly 36,000 recruits passed through the Recruit Depots at Parris Island, S.C. and San Diego, California.

NCOs accepting promotion to E-8 and E-9 must agree to remain on active duty for three years after accepting their promotion. This requirement was first levied during FY 61 with the view of assuring the optimum professional caliber of senior non-commissioned officers.

LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The most important advance in the logistic field was in education of commanders and their staffs concerning their responsibilities in supply and financial management. A Marine Corps-wide logistics conference was held in which all major commands participated, and the Marine Corps Schools incorporated more comprehensive instruction in certain aspects of logistic support.

As a matter of standing operating procedure, mount-out supplies are maintained in a ready status by Fleet Marine Force units. These ready supplies accompanied Marine forces which were deployed in response to actual operational requirements. In addition the Chief of Naval Operations and

the Commandant of the Marine Corps granted administrative release of automatic replenishment supplies. Since combat did not ensue, no replenishment supplies had to be shipped and mount-out supplies remained intact ready for the next emergency. A resupply drill involving FMFPac, Navy and Marine supply activities, and Defense Transportation Management Agencies was held in March 1962 to test adequacy of replenishment plans and procedures. Work has now begun on a routine updating of those plans, the efficacy of which has been time tested and validated.

Issue of the NATO family of small arms began in FY 62 and is proceeding according to plan. All east coast FMF units have received their new weapons, ammunition, and spare parts. Issue of the 7.62 mm weapons to other units is scheduled for completion in FY 63.

An extensive tank-modernization program has been approved. Existing M-48 medium and M103 heavy tanks will undergo refitting. Diesel engines will be installed, present sighting devices are to be replaced by a simpler though accurate device, and heat-suppression grilles will be added. The net result of the program will be to improve range, reduce maintenance, simplify gunnery, and extend

the life of tanks in the present inventory at minimum cost.

Punch-card computers have been provided at major installations to mechanize routine aspects of personnel, supply, and fiscal management. This step resulted in elimination of 82 military and civilian data processing billets and reduction of \$56,000 per year in rental in those areas. The savings enabled the Marine Corps to staff Mobile Data Processing Platoons without increasing the present ceiling. These mobile platoons became organic to the divisions, wings, and Force Service Regiments during fiscal year 1962.

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